



27 August 2006

LABOR DAY SAFETY

1. Labor Day is celebrated on the first Monday in September. It is dedicated to the achievements of American workers and the contributions they have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of the United States of America. As the Labor Day weekend approaches, so does the fifth anniversary of the most heinous terrorist attack against our great Nation, the terrorist attack on New York City and the Pentagon. As we look towards Labor Day and remember 9-11, we cannot help but think about how much the world has changed as we continue to fight and win the Global War on Terrorism. As we conclude Ulchi Focus Lens '06, Labor Day affords us the opportunity to take time to honor those who built our country, while remembering those who are fighting to secure our future.

2. As we reconstitute following Ulchi Focus Lens and head into a long weekend holiday, leaders will have to conduct effective risk assessment and risk mitigation. Otherwise, this long weekend holiday could be a recipe for disaster. When analyzing risk, leaders must consider additional factors such as the significant turnover in senior leadership, the beginning of the new school year, and the onset of the fall harvest.

3. We must prepare our team for success, which means no deaths or serious injuries over the holiday. Approach this holiday as you would any tough mission; plan ahead, develop controls, and execute to standard. Leaders must engage Service Members and Civilian Employees to identify and avoid hazards and convey the requirement for personal responsibility. The choices that Servicemembers make have consequences that affect the rest of their lives--and the lives of their loved ones.

4. Before any Service Member departs for the long weekend, I require all first line supervisors to conduct Under the Oak Tree Counseling (UtOTC) to drive the message home. We are accountable and responsible for those in our charge, and the chain of command must ensure that UtOTC counseling by first-line leaders is our norm -- not the exception. Leader responsibilities for UtOTC are laid out in my Command Policy Letter #2, Command Safety. Command Policy Letters are found on-line at the USFK Web Site, <http://www.usfk.mil/USFK/index.html>.

5. Our goal is no accidents, no serious injuries, and no loss of life over this holiday weekend. As leaders, we are accountable to achieve this. I wish each of you a safe and happy Labor Day weekend, and I thank you for the sacrifices you are making in the Global War on Terrorism and the commitment you make to our great Alliance with the Republic of Korea. Your Nation is very grateful for all you do every day. We Go Together!

B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commander

FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!

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